

# Resident Undergraduate Charges at California's Public Universities



A CALIFORNIA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION FACTSHEET

**C**ALIFORNIA charges its own residents less to attend its public colleges and universities than it charges nonresidents. It charges resident students systemwide fees as well as mandatory, campus-based fees. The campus-based fees help support student services like counseling, student union activities, student government, and recreation. California has sought to avoid charging resident students for the direct cost of instruction, which it charges as "tuition" to nonresident students.

## Who are resident students?

California State University determines the residency of its students according to State law, which defines resident students for tuition purposes as those who (1) have resided in California for at least one year and one day prior to enrolling in a college or university, and (2) intend to make California their home. A student may demonstrate the intent to reside in California through a number of means, including obtaining a California driver's license, owning or renting property in the state, registering a vehicle in California, and paying California personal income taxes.

A recently enacted statute now provides that nonresident students may be considered residents for tuition purposes if they have attended for three years and graduated from a California high school.

Generally, undergraduate students at the University of California are considered nonresidents if their parents reside out-of-state. They may be classified as California residents if they can demonstrate they are financially independent of their parents for at least two years prior to being classified as a resident. This means that it takes about three years for eligible out-of-state undergraduate students to qualify as California residents for tuition purposes.

## What does the University of California charge resident students?

For 2002-03, the University of California charges undergraduate residents an average of \$4,017 in mandatory charges. This includes systemwide student fees, the average campus-based fees, and the \$135 fee increase approved by the University of California Board of Regents at its December 16, 2002, meeting. These mandatory fees do not include the cost of health insurance. If students do

not have health insurance, they are required to pay for such coverage. The average cost of student health insurance is \$526 per year.

The \$4,017 in mandatory fees for resident undergraduate students is \$2,057 less than the average amount charged by the four public universities with which the University of California compares itself for faculty salary purposes:

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	\$7,960
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	6,704
State University of New York, Buffalo	4,850
University of Virginia	4,780
Average of the comparison group	<b>\$6,074</b>
Average UC mandatory fees	<b>\$4,017</b>

## What does the California State University charge resident students?

For the 2002-03 academic year, the California State University charges resident students an average of \$1,998 in mandatory fees. This amount includes the increase in systemwide student fees enacted by the California State University Board of Trustees at its December 16, 2002, meeting. This total is lower than all of the 15 public universities with which California State University compares itself in terms of faculty salaries and \$2,566 lower than the group average:

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Newark	\$7,308
University of Maryland, Baltimore County	6,362
University of Connecticut	5,843
State University of New York, Albany	5,337
Cleveland State University	5,196
Illinois State University	5,037
Wayne State University	5,031
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee	4,416
George Mason University (Virginia)	4,356
University of Texas, Arlington	4,123
North Carolina State University	3,827
Georgia State University	3,472
University of Colorado, Denver	3,238
University of Nevada, Reno	2,622
Arizona State University	2,585
Average of the comparison group	<b>\$4,584</b>
Average CSU mandatory fees	<b>\$1,998</b>